Pholo language

Pholo (autonym: *p ʰo ˥lo ˥*) is an unclassified Loloish language of Yunnan, China. Although culturally associated with the Phula languages, Pelkey (2011) does not consider it to be linguistically related to the Phula languages.

Pholo speakers are also referred to as Black Phula and Flowery Phula (Pelkey 2011:176).

Pholo	
Black Phula	
Native to	China
Ethnicity	Phula
Native speakers	30,000 (2011)[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan - Lolo-Burmese - Loloish - Nisoish (unclassified) **Pholo**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`yip`
Glottolog	`phol1235` (http:// glottolog.org/res ource/languoid/i d/phol1235)[2]

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Classification

Pelkey (2011:353)[3] specifically excludes Pholo, noting that it does not share the defining features of Southeastern Loloish. However, Lama (2012) classifies Pholo as a Southeastern Loloish language, and considers it to be most closely related to Zokhuo

Distribution

Pholo speakers are most densely concentrated in (Pelkey 2011:176):

- Aji Township, Yanshan County
- eastern Tianxing Township, Qiubei County

Other Pholo speakers are found in (Pelkey 2011:176):

- eastern Yanshan County
- Pingzhai Township, Qiubei County
- western Guangnan County
- Xinzhai Township, Malipo County

Vocabulary

The following Pholo lexical items along with their Proto-Ngwi (Proto-Loloish) reconstructed proto-forms are from Pelkey (2011:390).

Gloss	Pholo	Proto-Ngwi
bee	bjɯ˧	*bya²
taro	bjɑ˥	*blum²
silver	pʰi˧	*plu¹
face	pʰjɔ˥	*pyu²
destroy	pe̠˩	*pyakᴴ
change	pʰjɑ̠˩	*C-plekᴸ
pus	ᵐbjɑ˧	*m-bliŋ¹
full	phɑ̠˨	*m-bliŋ³
fly (v.)	bi˥	*b-yam¹
lightning		*b-lyapᴸ
release	pʰjɑ˧	*pyiŋ²
eagle	to˧	*ʔ-glaŋ²
stab		*m-gya²
excrement	tʰæ˧	*ʔ-kle²
load (v.)	tsɯ˩	*ʔ-kun³ᐟ²

Most, but not all, of the Pholo words above do not share the following innovations that define Southeastern Ngwi (Pelkey 2011:365).

1. Proto-Ngwi *ʔ-k and *ʔ-gl > Proto-Southeastern Ngwi *tɬ (modern reflexes: tɬ, kɬ, k, t, ɬ, etc.)
2. Proto-Ngwi *pl/j and *ʔ-kl > Proto-Southeastern Ngwi *tɬʰ (modern reflexes: tɬʰ, kɬʰ, kʰ, tʰ, ɬ, etc.)
3. Proto-Ngwi *bl/j and *gl > Proto-Southeastern Ngwi *dʐ (modern reflexes: dʐ, gʐ, g, d, etc.)
4. Proto-Ngwi *m-pl/j and *m-bl/j > Proto-Southeastern Ngwi *ndʐ (modern reflexes: ndʐ, ŋgʐ, nd, etc.)

Other Pholo words from Pelkey (2011:301):

- qɑ̠˩lɑ˩ (neck)
- ᵐbjɑ˩ʐɛ˨ (pus)
- phɑ̠˨ (full)
- χɑ˩ (long)
- mɑ˩ (name)
- mɑ̠˩ (cooked)

More Pholo words are documented in YYFC (1983),[4] part of which are quoted in Lama (2012).

References

1. Pholo (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/yip/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Pholo" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/phol1235). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Jamin Pelkey, 2011, *Dialectology As Dialectic: Interpreting Phula Variation*

4. YYFC (Yunnan University for Nationalities and Guiding Committee of Studying and Working on Yunnan Minority Languages 云南民族大学格云南民族语文指导工作委员会编). 1983. 云南彝语方言 词语汇编 [A Collection of Yi Dialects' Lexicon in Yunnan] (Handwritten Mimeograph).

- Lama, Ziwo Qiu-Fuyuan. 2012. *Subgrouping of Nisoic (Yi) Languages*. Ph.D. thesis: University of Texas at Arlington.